



The Best of Oregon

CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

Contacts: Bill LaMarche, Public Information Manager
503-526-3737 / blamarche@BeavertonOregon.gov

Jordan Imlah, Public Information Coordinator
503-350-4083 / jimlah@BeavertonOregon.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2013

USTA PRO CIRCUIT \$50,000 WOMEN'S CHALLENGER COMES TO BEAVERTON

-The free, family friendly event is hosted by the Greater Portland Tennis Council-

BEAVERTON, Ore. – Beaverton and Washington County Visitors Association welcome the Greater Portland Tennis Council (GPTC) to the city for the first annual USTA Pro Circuit \$50,000 Women's Challenge from July 14-21 at the Tualatin Hills Tennis Center in Beaverton (15707 SW Walker Rd., Beaverton, OR). The event, titled the Oregon Challenger, is the only pro tennis tournament in Oregon and features several of the world's top 100 players. The three-tournament circuit will determine the winner of a wild card into this year's US Open.

"We're proud to be the city that the USTA chose to host the inaugural Oregon Challenger," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "Beaverton is an athletic and vibrant city and this event is sure to draw people of all ages."

The Tualatin Hills Tennis Center will hold several free spectator events throughout the tournament including:

- Pro-Am on Monday, July 15 from 5-6:30 p.m. Watch top women pros have a great time playing local tennis players in a charity fundraiser, free to the public. Followed by a Cardio Pro-Am for Players clinic with tennis ratings of 2.5-4.5 level (there is a fee for this clinic). Please visit www.theoregonchallenger.com to register for either event.
- Joint Tournament party and fundraiser for the Alex Rovello Fund, in memory of the University of Oregon tennis player, on Wednesday, July 17 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Sunset Athletic Club (13939 NW Cornell Rd., Portland, OR 97229).
- Community Day on Friday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to noon includes free 10-and-under clinics, and a wheelchair tennis clinic presented by the Northwest Wheelchair Tennis Association. Debbie Borchers, a 25-plus year veteran coach will be on hand as well as NWTA adult competitive players. This event is open to all interested juniors with physical impairments. Family tennis activities will also be provided during the event. Parents and teenagers are encouraged to attend.

"We're excited about this opportunity to bring women's pro tennis to Oregon," said Brian Loomis, tournament director and president of the GPTC. "We're expecting some excellent talent. The

USTA thinks Tualatin Hills is a premium site to host the event and we're hoping to use it as a fundraiser."

Formed in 1998, GPTC is a chartered, nonprofit organization that has become one of the largest Community Tennis Associations in the state. All proceeds from events go directly towards GPTC's mission of putting on quality tennis programs for kids and special population groups in the area. Through their "T" for Tennis program, the GPTC has brought in-school tennis classes to 550 children in Head Start programs throughout the community. GPTC also supports 10-and-under tennis, wheelchair tennis and Special Olympic tennis programs.

With approximately 90 tournaments hosted annually nationwide, the USTA Pro Circuit is the largest developmental tennis circuit in the country, offering nearly \$3 million in prize money. Maria Sharapova, Andy Roddick, Andy Murray, and Caroline Wozniacki are just some of the players who began their careers on the USTA Pro Circuit.

For more information about GPTC and the tournament, please visit www.gptc.usta.com or email GPTC@comcast.net. For more information about the USTA, please visit www.usta.com.

In 2013, Beaverton was again recognized as the **safest city in Oregon**. Since 2007, Beaverton has been named one of the safest cities in the Northwest. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four cities of its size recently recognized as a "**Smarter City**" **energy leader by the Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. Beaverton also enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. For more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov. Fans are also encouraged to like the City of Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton for information, reminders and City of Beaverton news.

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